### NEW YORK HERALD. JAMES GORDON BENNETT,

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or 35 to any part of the Continent, both to include postage; the
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ARTICULARLY REQUESTED TO SEAL ALL.
QUES NEW V.

RONOTICE taken of anonymous correspondence. We do not
course rejected communications.

ADVERTISEMENTS revered every day: advertisements inerted in the Wesk't Henrill, Parilly Henrill, and in the
hillformia and European Editions.
JOB PRINTING executed with neatness, cheapness and de-

#### Volume XXIV......No. 46 AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway .- WRECE ASHORE-NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—Afternoon and Evening CIRCUS PREFORMANCES—FRAINED HORSES, MULES, &c. BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery .- GIO, THE ARMOBER OF BURTON'S NEW THEATER, STORDWAY-OUR FRMALE

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway-THE VETERAN; OR, LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, No. 634 Broadway.-Our

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.-After WOOD'S MINSTEEL BUILDING, 561 and 563 Broadway-BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, MECHANICS' HALL, 427 Broad

ACADEMY OF MUSIC. Fourteenth street.—How. Horact

New York, Wednesday, February 16, 1859.

#### MAILS FOR EUROPE.

The New York Herald-Edition for Europe The Cunard mail steamship Asia, Capt. Lott, will le this port to-day for Liverpool. The European mails will close in this city at half-past

ten o'clock this morning.

The European edition of the Herand will be published at ten o'clock in the morning. Single copies, in wrappers,

Subscriptions and advertisements for any edition of the NEW YORK HERALD will be received at the following places

LONDON... Sampson Low, Son & Co., 47 Ladgate Hill.

Lansing, Starr & Co., 74 King William street.

PARIS... Lansing, Baldwin & Co., 8 place de la Bours

LIVERPOOL. Lansing, Starr & Co., No. 9 Chapel street.

R. Stuart, 10 Exchange street, East.

HAVEE... Lansing, Baldwin & Co., 21 Rue Corneille.

HAMBER... De Chapeaunge & Co.

The contents of the Frances of the Hamper.

The contents of the European edition of the Herald will combine the news received by mail and telegraph at the office during the previous week and up to the hour of

#### The News.

In Congress yesterday the Senate took up and passed the House bill modifying the pay of officers of the army. Among the amendments adopted by the Senate was one cutting off the brevet pay of Gen. Scott, some five thousand dollars only. A bill regulating the mileage of members was introduced and referred. Notice was given of a motion to take up the Old Soldiers' Pension bill today, in order to have a test vote on it. The bill providing for the acquisition of Cuba was then taken up, and Senators Crittenden and Hale delivered elaborate speeches in opposition to the measure. The House was engaged in discussing the Senate's amendment to the Indian Appropriation.

In the Legislature yesterday the Senate passed the bill to extend the charter of the Harlem Railroad. The Assembly was occupied in debate upon the Registry Law bill.

We publish some very interesting details concerning the landing of the ex-Emperor of Hayti, his family, and suite, at Kingston, Jamaica, this morning. It appears that some exiled Havtiens, with exceeding bad taste, grudged his fallen Majesty the shelter which had been extended to themselve when in trouble, and that one of them went so far as to attempt an assault on his person. It is highly probable, had not the British frigate Melbourne touched at Port au Prince, that either Soulouque or his Cabinet Ministers, or perhaps all of them, would lace. As it was the ex-Emperor, his wife and family, had to be escorted through the streets leading to the harbor by a strong force of English marines, accompanied by the British and French Consuls. It proposed by the crowd to fire the house in which the ex-Ministers were lodged: but President Geffrard having issued a soothing proclamation, the deposed officials were permitted to go into exile. Soulouque was about to rent a mansion at Kingston, where his appearance, aided perhaps by his cash, had impressed the white population favorably towards him.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday, Florence Myers, indicted for burglary in the first degree in entering the dwelling house of John Higgins, 273 Elizabeth street, on the 6th inst., and stealing \$28 worth of silver spoons, pleaded guilty to the third grade of that offence, and the Recorder sent him to the State prison for four years and eight months. John Hustis, jointly indicted with Wm. Johnson for keeping a fare table at 575 Broadway, was convicted on the complaint of Benjamin F. Hibber, who swore that on the 24th of Novem. ber he lost \$600 in Johnson's establishment. Hustis was committed to prison, and will be sentenced on Saturday. Hugh Hays, indicted for an assault with intent to kill Michael O'Riley on the 4th of April, pleaded guilty to assault and battery, and was remanded for sentence. Wm. Foster. who was jointly indicted with William Hanley for assaulting Thomas Burns, in Tammany Hall, on the night of the 24th of November, was convicted of an assault and battery. It appeared from the evidence that Burns was a "regular" delegate to a convention to nominate Councilmen, and that the defendant was one of the "irregulars," who had possession of the room, and who attempted to prevent the "regulars" from entering, which resulted in a Tammany fight. Foster will be sentenced on the last day of the term. It is understood that the Grand Jury will bring in bills of indictment this morning against the alleged murderers of Decker, in the Sixth ward.

At the meeting of the Board of Ten Governors yesterday a resolution, requesting the Common Council to examine the books and affairs of the Almshouse Department, was adopted. There were 8,279 persons in the institution in charge of the Governors on the 12th instant. A bill for oysters supplied to Bellevue Hospital from the 23d of September to the 27th of January, amounting to \$173 71, was referred to the Warden for explana-

A few of the members of the Board of Councilmen instructed the Clerk yesterday to call a special meeting of the Board on Wednesday, at three o'clock, for the purpose of passing the tax levy.

The foreign news by the America had a tendency to un the the cotton market yesterday. The sales were con-It wise rumored that some 800 bales were sold in transit. seemed disposed to await the arrival of private toffers by the steamer before doing much. Private desso of the Gulf ports, which tended to show that receipts to some extent been checked, the truth of which I owever, we could not fully trace. Flour was again strimer, with pretty free sales both on speculation and to estic trade; common and medium grades again sold at better prices. Wheat was held above the view

of buyers for prime lots, while sales were limited. Corn was more active for new, while prices were rather easier.

Pork was heavy and prices favored purchases.

The sales embraced new mess at \$18.25, and prime at \$13.50 a \$13.62½. Sugars were in fair demand, with les of about 900 a 1,000 bhds., included in which wro 100 hhds. Lew crop Cuba muscovado at rates given in another colum. The sales also embraced about 1,300 bixes at 7½c. a 9½c. Coffee was steady, but quiet. Freights were steady, with moderate engagements, among which were some lots of compressed and uncompressed at the to Liverpool at 5-32d, and 3-16d., and a lot of Sea

d do. at 3.8d. Rosin at 1s. 103/d. to 2s., and tierce eef at 3s.

The State of Affairs in Europ The aspect of affairs in Europe, as conveyed the report from Halifax yesterday of the news by the steamship America, wears anything but a

What most characterises the present state of affairs is its marked similarity to the condition of things previous to the breaking out of the Crimean war. Then we had continual rumors rom "the best informed circles" that the ques tions pending would be amicably adjusted, and official journals preached peace up to the last moment. Yet England, France, Russia and the other continental Powers went on with their belligerent preparations until all Christendom found itself fighting the battle of the Turk, or maintaining an armed neutrality that was nearly as costly as war. So in the present case. In England, while the official journals disclaim all intention on the part of the government to permit itself to be mixed up with the new complications which have arisen, there is a marked activity in the gunpowder department, and the ountry looks anxiously for the opening of Pariament, which was to take place in a few days. France presents even more marked indications of war than England. The cavalry is being filled up with urgency, artillerymen are making large preparations of cartridges, ships are ordered from Cherbourg to the Mediterranean. and other signs are visible on all sides.

All these evidences, however, do not prove

that war is going to take place between Franci and Austria, or between France and England or Sardinia and anybody else. They are possibly the signs of something else than an international war to make or break Louis Napoleon a arbiter of Europe. The financial revulsion which swept over the world a little more than a year ago has left the material prosperity of the governments and communities of the Continent in a state which is little more than a hollow sham. The governments have carried themselves through, and are still keeping up appearances by a series of loans, which in reality is nothing more than putting off for a short time the day of reckoning. Trade has not revived, industry is not prosperous, credit is not restored to that degree which would warrant the confident belief that these three elements of peace are in a sound condition. The financial centres of every capital in Europe are agitated with the fear that the public debt, and the vast system which prevails there of squeezing the active classes to pay the drones and a brutal soldiery, are about to follow the old assignats of France and the red book system of Louis the Sixteenth. Germany in this respect is rotten to the core, with its enor nous list of princes and petty courts. Austria has been forced to march eighty thousand troops into Gallicia to keep down the popular fermen tation. Italy is filled with idleness, profligacy and poverty.

But it is in France where this state of things veighs most heavily. There the financial revulsion of 1857 was apparently stayed and controlled by a powerful exercise of the imperial will; but the results were only warded off for a while, and not completely passed over. In Paris at the present moment it is doubtful whether the court pays most attention to its preparations for war, or its efforts to revive the prosperity of trade and industry. The imperial halls are hrown open twice a week, and everybody is invited, which is equivalent to a command to come, and no one can appear twice in the same dress. The efforts to stimulate emigration to Algeria. resuscitation of the slave trade to the colonies, the vast imperial works that are undertaken, the desperate gambling on the Bourse are all a part of the same system. Every effort is made to keep up this sham of artificial prosperity; but natural laws must in the end prevail. and the bubble burst. The stirring up of the Italian question, as we have on a former occasion pointed out, has more to do with these political necessities of Louis Napoleon at home than it has with any intention of establishing the liberties of Italy. The whole continent of Europe is preparing the elements of a volcanic revolution. which must come sooner or later. It is only a question of how long the tinsel may dazzle, or a brutal soldiery cow the people. A famine or a frolic may inaugurate the change at any mo-

Corrections about Mr. Sickles .- We are inormed on competent authority that the story which has been circulated of differences between Hon. Mr. Sickles, Member of Congress, and Mr. Butterworth, of the Assay Office in this city, is entirely incorrect. It will be recollected that Mr. Butterworth was the second of Mr. Sickles in the Tucker affair, and probably the corres pondence which took place in that affair gave rise to the mistake. At all events, the friendship between the two gentlemen is as strong as

Another Washington correspondent mentioned that Mr. Sickles was agent for a claim in one of the departments, held by Secor & Co., of this city. Mr. Sickles is a lawyer by profession, and very good in his line; and any gentleman having a case in the courts at Washington, or elsewhere, chooses to select him as counsel, he has a perfect right to do so, and Mr. Sickles has an equal right to accept the case, which, in fact, would be only practising in his line of business. It is no imputation against the character of a lawyer that he attends to his professional duties and takes care of the interests of his clients. But it happens that Mr. Sickles is not the agent or the lawyer in that claim, and our correspondent must have been led into a mistake, not from any unfriendly purpose, but from a blundering propensity on the part of his informant.

These are very small matters for the friends of Mr. Sickles to complain of, for if the statements were all true, they would not involve any reflection on his character either as a politician or as a professional man. He had a perfect right to quarrel with Mr. Butterworth if he had reasons; but he has not done so, and he is still his friend, including also Ike Fowler, who is a little slippery. He had a perfect right, as a lawyer and man of business, to take a fee, if offered to him. in the case of Secor & Co., as well as in any other case; but it seems that in that case he has done nothing of the kind, and will be so much the loser.

As a politician, however, he seems to have oc-

cupied a very prominent position in the face of the assailants of Mr. Buchanan and his measures and on that score he has given general satisfaction to his constituents-a course which some of his friends have not followed up with the same zeal and the same tenacity of purpose that he has done. We wish Mr. Sickles would infuse a little of his spirit and pluck into the democracy of Tammany Hall. All the original fierté of that old concern seems to have gone off with Fernando Wood. Ike Fowler & Co. are a slow team at

Tammany Hall and the Cuba Questio

Since the Sachems of Tammany Hall smoked the pipe of peace in Washington, and came home and passed the Cuba resolutions, which smacked of the old times when they had a party at their back, the leaders of the democratic masses New York have given no sign of life.

We are well aware, however, that this seeming state of blissful peace among them is only apparent, and that they are busy scheming and plotting among themselves against each other, and how to secure the largest share of the god they worship, which is the spoil. The Tammany tribe has declared a secret war against all who dare to introduce anything like the issues of the day among them, to disturb their happy gorgings, and the recent Cuba resolutions have been quietly extinguished. The old gray rats are well convinced that they have a good thing of it in the Tammany larder as at present constituted, and so they have cautiously declared a political death penalty against any one who may claim on the Cuba platform a show in the next distribution from the city flesh pots. This was precisely the course they pursued last fall, and it is evident to every one that their defeat in the charter election was a direct and palpable rebuke given by the people to the Tammany spoilsmen. The Dickinsons, Richmonds, Woods, Fowlers, Purdys, Tiemanns, Schells and Harts may take this truth home with them and ponder over it. By their narrow and selfish policy of clique government all the young talent of the city and State has been driven away to seek other parties and coalitions and a new field for exertion. It was this clique tyranny which gave the State over to the black republicans, and the same baleful influence is now depriving the party of all possibility of reorganization under the wise counsels

and leadership of Mr. Buchanan. Without a new and true issue, with new men and new leaders, the democratic party can never hope to regain its ascendency in this city. The people are sick and tired of the constant internal squabbles and distractions on paltry questions of party discipline and the distribution of the spoils to the leaders. Rotation is one of the soundest planks in the democratic platform, and it must be brought to bear on the present state of affairs. The old woodpeckers and war horses, the grand sachems, grand warriors and grand fuglemen of the democratic wigman must be set aside in behalf of the success of the party on which they have lived. If Wood and Tiemann are eager for another gladiatorial contest to show their personal prowess, they must bring it off in a private way, for the old issues are gone, and the leaders must go with them.

The new issues have been presented to the country by Mr. Buchanan, and everywhere they are scattering the disorganized factions and making a practical recrystallization of parties. Foremost among those stands the Cuba question. It is the Aaron's rod of the next political campaign, swallowing up all the abstractions of niggerism, free soilism, free loveism, free treasonis and everything else that has been so long played on by political spoil gatherers. Let new men take Cuba for their rallying cry and watchword, and it will unite all sections and factions among the people. Even Mozart Hall and the Pewter Mug will fall in upon this compromise platform, or they will be abandoned by the masses. The vast trade and manufacturing and mechanical interests of New York are more deeply interested in the annexation of Cuba than all the rest of the Union together; and if a new set of democratic leaders will inscribe Cuba upon their banners they will present a united democracy to the support of the President, will bring back the young and vigorous talent of the city and State into their ranks, and Seward, with his black republican cohorts and disunion flags, would be borne out of sight and disappear forever.

THE GRIEVANCES OF STATEN ISLAND-A NEW STATE REQUIRED IN THE UNION,-The extermination of Quarantine at Staten Island last fall has involved the residents of that insular appendage to the State of New York in some pecuniary troubles which foreshadow a heavy draft on their pockets. Subsequent to the conflagration, when legal proceedings were instituted against the parties alleged to be the ringleaders, a subscription was taken up among the inhabitants of Richmond county, amounting, we believe, to about nine thousand dollars, for the purpose of defending the individuals prosecuted and defraying such other expenses as were incurred by the summary removal of Quarantine. The Supervisors of the county have framed the tax levy for the present year, and we understand that the taxes on property have been increased nearly forty per cent, as is alleged, to meet the expenses which have arisen out of the proceedings of the first and second of September last; the county thus voluntarily taxing itself with the amount required to carry out these proceedings, both of a legal and-as it is claimed—an illegal character, in addition to the subscriptions to a private fund already created. The Legislature, it must be remembered, have also in consideration the question whether the county of Richmond shall not be held accountable for the entire damages accruing from the burning of the Quarantine buildings, including the expenses of maintaining Governor King's army of occupation. If this should be determined against the Staten Islanders, it seems that they will have to pay three times over for the luxury of a pure and healthy atmosphere, free from the dangers of pestilence; so that in a pecuniary point of view, the destruction of the Quarantine hospitals will have proved a costly affair to the parties inte-

rested. This is decidedly a hard case, and in view the meddling legislation at Albany with which this city and its neighboring counties are afflicted-the Metropolitan Police law, Quarantine laws, Commissions, and so forth-would it not be a good idea, as if the only escape from the nuisance, to create a new independent State, composed of the three islands, Manhattan, Long Island and Staten Island, whose interests are in a measure identical? We are fully competent to govern ourselves without the assistance of the sagacions legislators from the country districts porary relief, but in reference to a comprehenwho now make laws for us. A very approprise sive and decisive policy of retrenchment and reinterest to be the most important fashionable event of the

ate name for the new commonwealth, moreover, would be the State of Triainsula, or the Three Islands-a comprehensive, significant and withal euphonious nomenclature, albeit it is neither Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, nor yet Indian, in its origin. Let us think about it!

Lectures and Lecturers

The business of boring people with what are called lectures is, by a special Providence, usually confined to country lyceums, wherein the old folks congregate to sleep, and the young ones to flirt or pout, as the case may be. Whether or not we of the metropolis have committed any particular enormities this winter is beyond our ken. We are, of course, awfully wicked at all times; but it has not appeared that we are more so now than usual, except by the overwhelming number of lectures and kindred humbugs with which we have lately been afflicted. The topics embrace history, biography, science, literature politics, poetry and art. We have one philoso pher expatiating upon King Bomba; another giving his views upon society in the United States; a third waxes geological; the redoubtable Count Joannes is in the field with his French reminiscences, and the Hon. Massa Greeley head the list with an oration upon "Great Men;" and people are not only expected to go and suffer these things, but absolutely to disburse current coin of the United States for the happy boon of being bored to death. That such a terrible result must eventual

from the efforts of these would-be guides, leaders and teachers of the people, is beyond per adventure, when we take into consideration the fact that they almost invariably select some topic upon which they are entirely uninformed. Take the Hon. Massa Greeley, for example : He goes about the country delivering lectures to the farmers upon the science of the soil, when the science of the composing stick is the only one that he ever learned. What a splendid discourhe could deliver, however, upon the Irish rebellion of '48; the art of getting up a paper revolution; procuring subscriptions to a liberty fund, and then taking the liberty to keep its final destination a profound secret; or upon the reception of Kossuth; or the Na tional Kansas Fund, which was raised to slay all the border ruffians, when they ran away and the subscriptions "made unto themselves thin air. into which they vanished;" or upon that remarkable breeches pocket which touched pitch in the shape of a thousand dollar draft, drawn by the Treasurer of the Fort Des Moines Company in favor of a lobby member of Congress, and came forth undefiled! But no; like all great philo sophers, the Hon. Massa Greeley is very impracticable, and instead of lecturing upon topics with which he is acquainted, he prefers to sail into the puddle of muddy theories and dingy generalities. Mr. Park Benjamin, too, is unfortunate in his topic, which should be literary infanticide. He could explain to sucking journalists the whole art and mystery of establishing, rear ing and killing off newspapers, as he has had an extensive experience in journals which have never lived through the process of dentition A history of these unfortunate publications which have been nipped in the flower of their youth and interred, with many tears, no doubt, by Mr. Benjamin, would be intensely amusing.

The scientific lecturer is safer than the literary one. The former can say all manner of stuni things without danger of detection. In fact, so far as practical application goes, such sciences as astronomy and geology are little better than imaginative poetry. Thus, the astronomers tell us that "the fragments of broken planets: the descent of meteoric stars upon our globe; the whirling comets, wielding their loose material at the solar surface; the volcanic eruptions in our own satellite; the appearance of new stars, and the disappearance of others, are all foreshadows of that impending convulsion to which the system of the world is doomed." So much for celestial dangers. The geologists tell us that the centre of the earth is a ball of fire, which must burn through the crust one of these days; so that we are between two burnings, and cannot escar some philosopher would fix the exact date of this conflagration, which has now been impending several centuries, we can guarantee him full house for his lecture. According to all the savants' accounts, we are on the verge of a grand smash-up, and it would be gratifying to know at what hour we might expect our doom.

But, omitting the mention of the sciences of which the world knows nothing definitely, would it not be much better for the lecturers of the day to talk about matters with which they are acquainted? After all, however, the ratio of a lecturer's value is in precise accordance with his notoriety. Thus, the Rev. Mr. Kalloch, who ought to found his lectures rather upon the Erotica than the Encyclopedia, would be worth thirty-three per cent more than Greeley; and that philosopher would likewise be more valuable than a better man who had not been so extensively adver tised. But when pecpar go to hear the Chevaller de Faublas of the pulpit, or the Pecksniff of jour nalism, it is a natural expectation that they will talk about matters with which they are identified; and as they fail to do it, the public goes away bored. All these lecturers, however, are only the pilot minnows which indicate the approach of such big fish as Dickens and Spurgeon When they arrive we may expect to see a grand excitement in all classes of society, throwing all the small fry performers far back in the

THE FINANCIAL IMBROGLIO IN CONGRESS. There is a positive, and to all appearances a very resolute majority, in the House of Repre sentatives against any more issues of Treasury notes, and any more loans, until there shall have been something done to replenish the Treasury from the solid receipts of the customs. For example, Mr. Phelps, Chairman on Ways and Means, moved (on Monday last) a suspension of the rules, in order to introduce a bill for a reissue for two years of some twenty millions of Treasury notes, and the motion was rejected by a vote of 109 to 83. And this majority, exceed ing twenty, we apprehend will hold good in the House against all attempts to give the tariff the go-by, and to fall back upon more loans or Treasury notes. The Senate, we suspect, is equally decided against giving the tariff questhe precedence; and thus, between these two stools, there is every chance that the Treasury will fall to the ground, or, in other words, tha this Congress will close without touching the financial necessities of the government. An extra session of the new Congress, therefore, looms up into a bold relief, as one of the most probable contingencies of the coming summer Very well. So be it. The President, as we have already shown, may turn an extra session to good account, not only in the matter of temsagacious legislators from the country districts | porary relief, but in reference to a comprehenform from stem to stern. And so let the wrangling and distracted democracy of this Congress fritter this session away; for, though it may be the worst thing that could happen for them, it may prove to be the best thing that could happen for the administration and the

THE ARMY RETRENCHMENT .- The Secretary of War has done a good thing in calling together the special board of army officers, which meet to-day in Washington to consider and report in detail their epinion upon these important points of retrenchment of the army expenses, to wit:-

1. How and to what extent can the transportation of the army be reduced, and the present cost of transportation be brought down.

2. To what extent can the animals required in the service of the Quartermaster's department be reduced in numbers consistently with the wants of the army, and how can those required be supported more economically.

3. What is the best mode of purchasing horses for the mountain agreement.

what is the best and most consisting norses for the mounted service.

4. How can the expenses of the army in every branch, at posts and in the field, be reduced.

5. What is the best and most economical plan for quarters and barracks, either permanent or temporary, at new

posts.

6. What plan should be adopted for the disposal of posts no longer needed for military purposes. With such experienced officers as Ripley, Garnett, Eaton, Chapman, Marcy, and the others constituting this board, we have reason to anticipate some very considerable trimmings and prunings. They ought to be able to reduce the costs of the service at least five millions below the December estimates of the Department, and we trust they will work up some such bill of relief before the expiration of the week. In behalf of the reduction of the costs of transportation we have an excellent idea to give themthe recall of two-thirds or three-fourths of the troops in Utah. Every thousand men thus re-

called to any point within reach of navigation will be equal, we presume, to the saving in transportation of subsistence of a million of dollars a year. A thousand or eight hundred regular troops are competent to maintain law and order in Utah.

## THE LATEST NEWS.

### AFFAIRS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Our Special Washington Despatch HE TARIFF QUESTION—REDUCTION IN THE ARMY EXPENSES—GENERAL SCOTT'S BREVET PAY CUT OFF-CORRUPTION IN THE NAVY DEPARTMENT-GREAT RUSH FOR THE NAPIER BALL, ETC., ETG.

Washington, Feb. 15, 1859.
Nothing was done to day by the Committee on Way and Means on the tariff question. It is still believed that the proposition to suspend the act of 1857 for two years will carry; but it must be done at once, or an extra session is inevitable. The committee had under consideration the claims of several States for arrearages of interest, based

The Army bill which passed the Senate to day cuts of all the brevet pay allowed to General Scott last year, amounting to nearly five thousand dollars. Mr. Davis tried to cut it off last year, but failed.

Since the action of the House Military Con ting down the Army Appropriation bill, the Secretary of War has addressed a letter to said committee, approving their course. The reduction amounts to nearly tw

The Sherman Naval Investigating Committee expect t report on Friday next. There has been an immense mas testimony taken, showing great looseness in the practices and details of several navy yards, especially Brook-lyn, and a good deal of conflicting testimony as to the character of the contracts.

accuses George N. Sanders of misstating the accounts o his office. Sanders denies this, and a witness has been sent for to rebut Swackhamer. It is also in testimony that Mr. Wendell, brother, we believe, of the public printer, supplied an inferior article of paint to that called for by contract, and that his account was passed. The other officials of the yard are also in trouble

A member of the present Congress testified before Sherman's Investigating Committee that Glancy Jones, Minister to Austria, whilst a member of Congress, had made an agreement with witness, then not a member, to procure him coal contracts from the government, for which Jones was to receive a commission of five per

In case the rumored retirement of Chief Justice Taney and Judge McLean takes place, there is no doubt Attorney General Black would go on the Supreme bench. The on portunity would also then be embraced of a reconstruction of the Cabinet.

Senator Gwin purposes, it is said, introducing an amend ment to the Army Approp be their duty to convey the overland letter mail. This can be done by despatching from post to post three or four men each mail, and whilst it will not add a dolla additional expense, it will save the large outlay now paid for the transportation of that mail, practice the army as scouts, and afford protection to emigrants. All the tickets reserved here for the Napier ball have been sold, and still applications are pouring in.

Philadelphia, to the Sergeant-at-Arms' deputy, for the arrest of John Cassin, who has refused to appear before the Sherman Investigating Committee The Cass Yrissari treaty will probably not reach here in

time to be laid before the Senate this session, as the messenger failed to come by the last steamer.

Mr. Sickles of your city is reported among the absentee on the Oregon question. It appears that Mr. S. and Mr. Hickman, of Pennsylvania, paired off on the final vote. Among the personal topics of Washington society jus now are three fashionable weddings, all to take place within a month, viz.: Mr. Eustis, M. C. from Louisiana, to Miss Corcoran, of Washington, daughter of the banker Mr. Riggs, of Washington, to Miss Bright, daughter of the Senator from Indiana: Mr. Baylor, of Alabama, to Miss Gwin, daughter of the Senator from California.

# THE GENERAL NEWSPAPER DESPATCH

Washington, Feb. 15, 1859.
The President, in a reply to a resolution of the House communicated a message to-day, enclosing a report from the Attorney General, who says that the local officers of the government at Savannah have been specially and strictly enjoined to perform the duties imposed on them by the several acts of Congress for the suppression of the slave trade; that special counsel has been employed to aid the District Attorney in prosecuting the offenders; that the advices received satisfactorily show the diligence and activity of all persons engaged in the public service to find the negroes who were clandestinely introduced to identify the parties engaged in the crime, and ascertain other important facts connected with the transaction.

All this has been attended to with many difficulties; but there is good reason to hope they will be overcome, and justice, according to the law of the land, executed upon the offenders. But the present condition of affairs is such as to make it absolutely impossible that the proceedings already instituted, or those in contemplation, should be given in detail, without very great prejudice to the public

It appears, from an official document, that the cost of the sites of the navy yards at Portsmouth, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Norfolk, Blythe Island, Marc Island, Sackett's Harbor, Pensacola, and the amount expended in improvements thereon to the 1st of December, 1858, as far as can be ascertained, was \$26,287,000.

The Secretary, of the Interior has asked Congress for an appropriation of \$20,000 for taking the census of Kansas with a viewice its admission into the Union, in accordance with the recommendation of the President in his annual

The aggregate number of passengers arrived in the United States from foreign countries, by sea, from the 30th of September, 1843, to the 1st of December, 1858, is 4,052,000, of which nearly two and a half millions were

# Our Washington Correspon

Magnitude of the Preparations for the Napier Ball-Fresh Alterations in the Programme—All the Pushionables of the Leading Cities to be Present—Occupation for the Jen-kinses of the New York and Country Press—Value of

International Courtesies, &c., &c.
The Napier ball, which takes place on Thursday next,

elife of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, applying for rooms at Willard's the day previous to the ball. It was at first intended to devote only half the vast dining room at that hotel to the use of the dancers, it being contem plated to reserve the other portion for a supper room. The pressure for tickets has, however, compelled the nittee to change their plan and select other rooms for the supper, whilst the whole of the dining hall, which is nearly three hundred feet long, is to be appropriated to

the votaries of Terpsichere.

This is not the only alteration that has been made in the original plan. It was at first proposed to limit the sub scription to a fixed number, in order that the company might be more select, but it was soon discovered that so exclusive a course would expose the committee to much un-friendly comment and create very general dissatisfaction. It is rumored that Lord Napier, with that good sense and taste which are his distinguishing characteristics, ventured to suggest to some of his friends on the committee that it would be far more gratifying and complimentary to Lady Napier and family, if they could look upon the ball as a mark of public appreciation and esteem rather than as the simple, though flattering, testimonial of private friendship. It was thereupon immediately decided to make the sub-scription general, and the consequence will be that we shall witness a gathering of all that is really respectable as well as fashionable, not only in Washington but in the adjacent capitals. No such opportunity has presented itself for years for comparing the pretensions of our larger cities to the foremost rank in beauty, taste and wealth. All who aspire to the envied post of leaders of fashion must appear at the Napier ball on Thursday, to submit

all who aspire to the envied post of leaders of fashion must appear at the Napier ball on Thursday, to submit their claims, not merely in laces and diamonds, but in breeding and elegance, to inspection and approval. The rivalry between the youngest and fairest of our Northern belies will be something formidable; for to carry off the palm of superior beauty, wit and fascination, will be a prize worth contending for, and will make the winner a national celebrity in the world of fashion. Something more, too, than applause and admiration thay fall to her share; for be it remembered that several of the iothiest families and titles of England will be represented at his ball in the persons of the young noblemen who have just returned from their Western pigrimage. Who knows but that they have escaped the arrows of the Indians only to fall victims to the shatis from sly Cupid's quiver?

It is stated that all the leading journals are making preparations to do honor to this sphendid festivity, and that the grandest feats of the immortal Jenkins, of the London Post, will be thrown into the shade by the glowing metaphors and pompous hyperbole of his American instators. Well, the occasion will be worth all that can be said of it; for not only will the Napier ball be a file of surpassing brilliancy, marking our rapid advance in social refinement, but it will be a just compliment to a lady preminently distinguished for her personal attractions and virtues as well as to ber admired and respected lord. It will serve in addition to testify the good feeling and esteem which we entertain towards England, and which only seek legitimate opportunities like the present to manifest themselves. Amidst all the splendor and gaiety of this festival, let it be remembered that in honoring the guests of the evening we are paying a free tribute of affection and respect to the great country from which our own civilization springs, and which has done so much for that of the world generally. Five the Napier ball

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRES SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1859. Prayer was offered by Father Boyle, a Catholic priest. Not a Senator was in his seat at the opening hour save one, who retired into the lobby during the prayer.

The VICE PRESIDENT rapped with his mallet, and re-marked that he could not call the vacant desks to come to order, so he would await the arrival of the Senators At a quarter past eleven the Senators had dropped in so the journal was read. Mr. Sildell, (adm.) of La., offered a resolution that

there be evening sessions on Wednesday and Friday to discuss the Cuba bill. Laid over. the Indian war in Washington and Oregon THE PAY OF ARMY OFFICERS

The House bill modifying the pay of army officers was aken up and amended. It provoked much discussion chiefly between Messrs. Pugh and Davis. Mr. Pugs, (adm.) of Ohio, offered an amendment that

the act of February, 1857, be repealed, and the pay of all officers of the army be that prescribed by the laws for-

the act of February, 1867, be repealed, and the pay of air officers of the army be that prescribed by the laws formerly in force.

Mr. Tooms, (adm.) of Ga., supported this view. Army officers receive much more pay proportionately than the same amount of talent does in any other walk of life. Astimated at the purchase price of commissions in the British army, a licutenant's piace fresh from West Point would be worth \$60,000.

Mr. Pugh's amendment was lost by 14 against 41, and the bill, with a slight amendment, was passed.

Mr. Wilson, (opp.) of Mass., introduced a bill to regulate the mileage of Senators and representatives. It gives 15c, per mile for distances under 1,000 miles, 20c, for distances over 2,500 miles—the distance to be computed by the nearest mail route. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

THE OLD SOLDIERS' PENSION BILL.

Mr. CLAY, (adm.) of Ala., gave notice that he would tomorrow call up the Old Soldiers' bill from the House, and
have a test vote on it.

have a test vote on it.

THE ACQUISTION OF CURA.

Mr. CRITTENDIN, (opp.) of Ky., then took the floor on he Cuba bill. Mr. C. commenced by admitting the importance and desirability of Cuba, the residence and resting place of Columbus. He also admitted the Precident's constitutional right to negotiate for it without legislation; nay more, if the Precident succeeds in acquiring it by honorable means, there are few who would not hall the acquisition; but he (Crittenden) did not regard his success as certain, on the contrary no time can be more acquisition: but he (Crittenden) did not regard his success as certain, on the contrary no time can be more inopportune. When the message was promulgated what echo was returned from all Spain, indeed what echo was returned from all Spain, indeed rom all Europe, and even from the down trodden province of Cuba' Spanish pride was touched. The Cubans refused to be bought and sold. We have the authority of the Spanish government, that not only is Spain not conciliated by our manner of approaching her, but considers it as an insult. Would the President have written that message, had be known it would be so considered? Mr. Marcy to Mr. Soule in 1853, says, it was not expedient then to offer to purchase the island, and how much stronger were the circumstances now? If the President, in the face of the Spanish declaration, makes the offer, how can he avoid the imputation of premediated insult? God speed him, however, in his negotiation and save us from those probable complications and wars, of which this same Cuba may be the cause. Diplomacy, instead of now pressing the obnoxious offer, should rather leave it open, and seek to renew it in some one of the thousand events that occur in the fate of nations. Suppose Spain were to sell—suppose England and France, who propose a tripartite treaty, were to permit her to sell the island she holds as trustee, where are we to get the money? We have been obliged to go in debt for our household expenses. We have raised one loan for market money, and another is wanted. The treasury emits a funeral sound when we knock for money, for none is there. He did not mean to say the country cannot produce any amount of mean and money, but it is more convenient to do so at one time than another. Is it convenient now to have fastened on us and our children a tem million per annum interest on a two hundred million

for none is there. He did not mean to say the country cannot produce any amount of mean and money, but it is more convenient to do so at one time than another. Is it convenient now to have fastened on us and our children a ten million per annum interest on a two hundred million loan for the purchase of Caba? Mr. Crittenden here made a digression, to speak of Ceutral American and other weak States. It was the policy of the American government to maintain friendly feelings with all the nations of the continent. He remembered when the American name was loved; when it was dear to the struggling republos; when the declarations of encouragement that had been spoken by the voice of Henry Clay were read at the head of their armies. How have we lost all this? Read the message, and there you will see that we are not variance with Mexico, Costa Rica and Guatemala, and that we are buried in difficulties from the Fejee Islands to the Spanish throne. Do all these speeches of war augur well to the revenue? Yet a bill is now pending to place the military and naval forces in the hands of the President, apart and above the action of Congress. Has any one the constitutional power to make war except Congress? No, but you can hold a threat over the heads of these small States, make them tremble, and settle any claim whenever it shall appear good to the President to do it. Mr. Crittenden did not thuk it worthy the magnanimous character of our country to hunt out the weak and let the strong go free. If that bill should pass can we expect to be at peace, when we have even now to renew our reographical knowledge to know where the places are with which we have difficulties? He referred to the proposed seizure of the symewhat populous States of Sonora and Chihushna, to defend the frontier of the wilderness poetically cally Arizons. The bill was most universelved the was to enable the President to make little wars with little people. He then reviewed the Gosten drami-feeto, and the most apparent of money dealing. Further, it is unconsitut